

CHAPTER II

UNIT WIDE LAND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

A. Management Intent	7
B. Unit Wide Management Guidelines	10
Fish and Wildlife	11
Forestry	13
Grazing	18
Heritage Resources	27
Lakeshore and Stream Corridors	28
Materials	32
Public and Commercial Recreation	36
Subsurface	37
Transportation and Access	44
Water	51

CHAPTER II

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A. MANAGEMENT INTENT

Overall Intent

The overall management intent for the Deception Creek management unit is to retain the area in public ownership for at least ten years and manage it for multiple use, primarily forestry and wildlife habitat. This intent is explained in more detail in the individual subunits in Chapter III. A second overall intent is to preserve future options for use of the area for such purposes as a capital city, a university, a new industry, or other use not foreseeable at this time. Therefore, no long-range commitments will be made unless it is determined that a given use will not block or hinder long-term use of the site as a whole or is in the state's best interest. Sale of land under the state's major land disposal programs is prohibited. Remote cabins are also prohibited. Lease proposals will be considered case by case and may be allowed if consistent with this overall management intent and the remainder of this plan. A lease is more likely to be issued on the periphery of the area than in the capital site development core area (subunits 5A, 5B, 5C and 6). It is also more likely that a lease would be issued for five years than for twenty years.

Timber

Most of the timbered areas within this unit are available for harvest. They will be managed for small commercial sales and personal use cutting. Specific cutting plans for the next six years affect only subunit 5a and 5c and are explained in Chapter III. This plan designates areas where forestry is a primary use. Because these areas are designated forest lands within the Susitna Basin, they will also be addressed by the Susitna Forest Plan now being prepared by the Department. Most of the guidelines in this plan that govern timber harvest are interim and will be replaced by those of the Susitna Forest Plan when it is adopted.

Grazing

Grazing will be a secondary use in subunit 5A, T18N, R3W, SM, sections 4-8. In addition, grazing will be an allowed use in the rest of the management unit except in subunits 2A, 2B and 5C. When this plan is revised, the possibility of allowing grazing in subunits 2A, 2B and 5C should be reevaluated. In the interim, a range survey should be done for subunits 2A and 2B that determines the location, extent, and value of the grassland resource. Also during the

interim, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will collect further data on the extent of brown and black bear use in these subunits. This is dependant on funding available. When this information is available, the primary and secondary use designations for these subunits can be reevaluated. Research is also needed to determine whether livestock grazing is compatible with maintaining important wildlife habitat. These subunits support concentrations of brown bear and constitute one of the six most important moose harvest and production areas in the Susitna Basin. They are important winter range for moose and are heavily used by rutting moose. Livestock use of the area may not be compatible with the present level of use by moose. Brown bear and livestock are not compatible.

Public Recreation

Portions of the management unit have public recreation values. This is especially true of the 4½ sections along the Hatcher Pass Road (subunit 1). Other areas with public recreation values include Bullion Mountain, Willow Creek Island, Frying Pan (Lynx) Lake, Bench Lake, and the slopes of Bald Mountain. The primary recreational value is for dispersed recreation. No recreational facility development is planned (except in subunit 1) and much of the recreational value is potential and will increase if the area is eventually settled. The Public Recreation designation and classification is generally intended to identify and protect the recreational values for future use.

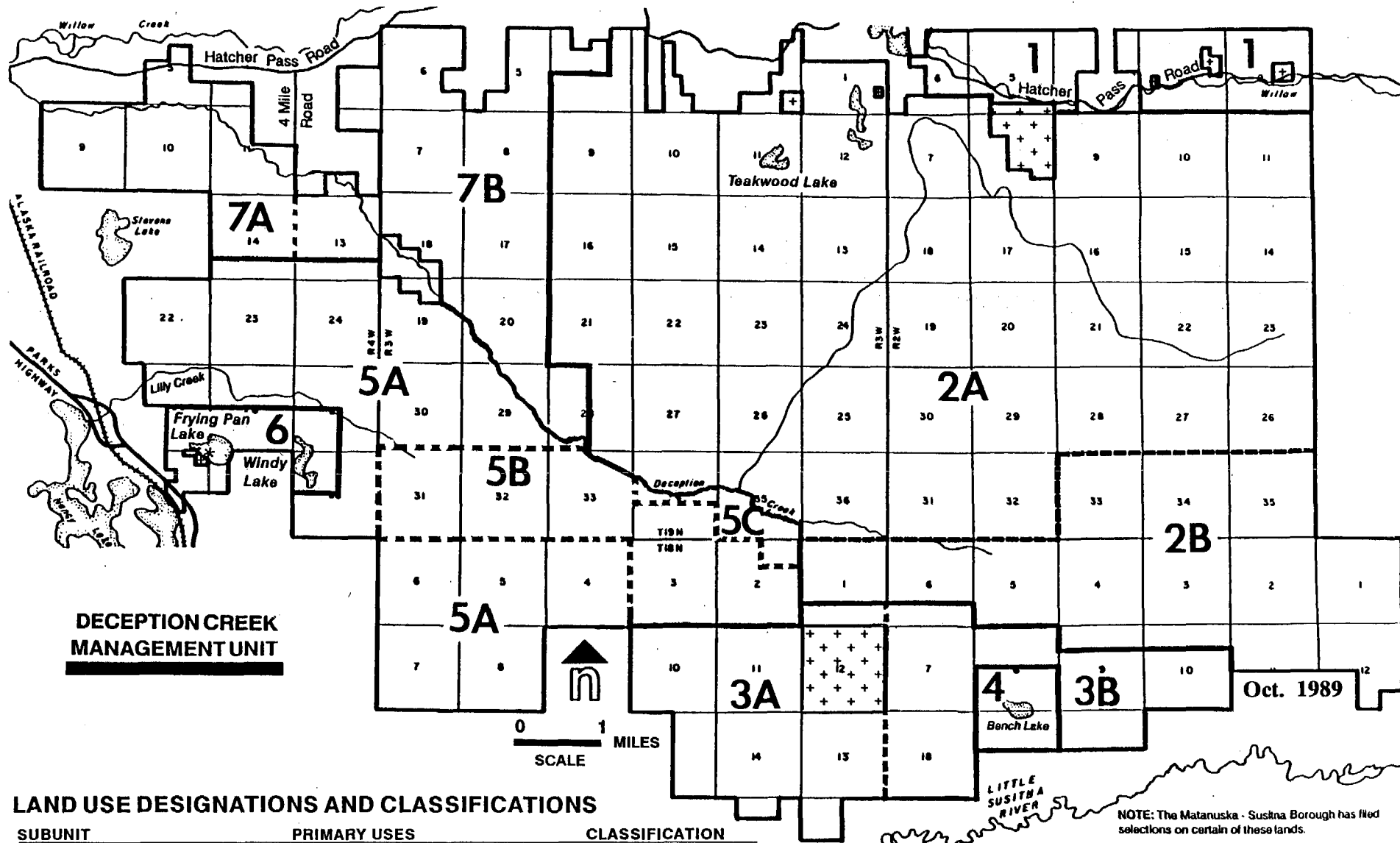
Mining

Most of the management unit will be reopened to mineral entry under leasehold except for the capital city core development area (subunits 5A, 5B, 5C, and 6); Deception Creek and its tributaries; corridors along other anadromous streams and around anadromous lakes; a stretch along Willow Creek for a public gold panning area; and the Hatcher Pass Road right-of-way. These areas will remain closed to new locatable mineral entry.

Borough Selections



This plan does not address whether lands selected by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough should be approved. The borough is interested in maintaining both its selections and its nominations within the unit. The plan recognizes borough interest areas (lands where the borough believes it has valid selections) and calls for classifying them either Resource Management or Public Recreation, both of which are selectable, conveyable categories under AS 29.65. (See Introduction for further explanation.) The plan also identifies primary uses on these lands and sets out how the state will manage them until a decision is made on their ownership. Prior to authorizing uses on these lands, DNR will consult with the borough.

More detailed management intent is given for each subunit following the unit wide management guidelines.



LAND USE DESIGNATIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

SUBUNIT	PRIMARY USES	CLASSIFICATION
1. Hatcher Pass Road Corridor	Public Recreation	Public Recreation
2A. Upper Deception Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Wildlife Habitat
2B. Upper Deception Creek	Watershed/Wildlife Habitat	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat; T18N, R3W Sec. 1: Resource Management
3A. South Slope	Forestry/Watershed/Wildlife Habitat	Resource Management
3B. South Slope	Forestry/Watershed/Wildlife Habitat	Forestry/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
4. Bench Lake	Forestry/Public Recreation/Watershed/Wildlife Habitat	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
5A. Middle Deception Creek	Forestry/Watershed	Resource Management
5B. Middle Deception Creek	Forestry/Watershed/Wildlife Habitat	Resource Management
5C. Middle Deception Creek	Wildlife Habitat	Resource Management
6. Frying Pan Lake	Forestry/Public Recreation/Watershed	Public Recreation/Resource Management
7A. Lower Deception Creek	Forestry	Resource Management
7B. Lower Deception Creek	Forestry	Forest Land

 Private, university, or borough land
 2.3 acre parcel of state land on Frying Pan Lake